

Long Term Recovery Committee or Organization Overview

Long Term Recovery Models:

- **Long-term Recovery Committee (LTRC)** – a formal organization made up of members of the community it serves; representing business and financial leadership, local media, community and faith-based groups, non-profit/civic organizations and city and county governments. The purpose is to coordinate and communicate the individual efforts of these groups by leveraging a limited supply of resources to maximize and sustain the recovery process but individually address survivor needs.
- **Long-term Recovery Organization (LTRO)** – a coalition or organization with formal structure; community organizations working as a single entity to bring resources to bear on the disaster-related needs. The purpose is to coordinate and communicate the efforts of these groups by leveraging a limited supply of resources to maximize and sustain the recovery process by collectively addressing survivor needs. Funding is available from the federal government to help in establishing a LTRO.

LTRC and LTRO Mission Statement - each LTRC or LTRO determines its own mission and purpose. Sample mission statements:

- To strengthen area-wide disaster coordination in the affected area by sharing information, simplifying resident access to services, and jointly resolving cases with disaster-caused recovery needs.
- To meet the need for ongoing coordination among communities providing volunteer, financial, spiritual and/or psychological support for people whose lives have been ravaged by a disaster.
- To provide collaborative leadership in the discernment of long-term needs for recovery and rehabilitation that can be most effectively meet or assisted by this community.
- To provide coordinated management of the long-term recovery for a disaster.
- To provide advocacy for people most vulnerable to having their needs overlooked in public recovery planning processes.
- Advocate for ongoing preparedness within the community and cooperation with governmental and volunteer agencies active in disaster.
- Provide additional long-term assistance to individuals affected by the disaster who do not have adequate personal resources for basic needs as a result of the disaster.

LTRC's and LTRO's consist of members of the communities they serve (looks like the community they serve):

Business and financial leadership
Local media
Community and faith-based groups
Non-profit/civic organizations
City and county governments.
VOAD

Objectives:

- Identify gaps in the recovery process within the committee for case management and relief/recovery services (each LTRO member determines their own function)
- Develop a relationship with policy makers on state and local levels
- Develop policies regarding the scope of their ability to assist in recovery
- Disseminating information to the public

Sample Objectives:

- Meet as needed and otherwise communicate on an ongoing basis to assure the most productive possible collaboration in addressing its mission
- Maximize all available resources of its member organizations and avoid duplication of services by member organizations
- Enhance community confidence in the recovery process by establishing policies and procedures for addressing the recovery needs of families, individuals and small business
- Appropriate linkage for communities with public and civic disaster response organizations including FEMA, American Red Cross, Church World Services, The Salvation Army, and state and local government entities
- Assist community organizations to assure systematic needs analysis and resource matching
- Build constructive relationships with community groups to avoid competition or conflict
- Work with individual groups to provide community support
- Assure public visibility for disaster recovery efforts

Steps to organize a LTRC or LTRO:

The organizer is generally one of the following, depending on who steps up to the table:

United Way
City or County government
Faith-based organization
Business community

- Choose strong leader to bring LTRO together
- Determine guidelines and rules that all members agree to support
 - Each member must accept responsibility
 - Equal partnership of all involved
 - Every member uses the same piece of paper (documents for case management, database, contracts, etc.)
- LTRO operates as a separate entity under non profit status and/or under a fiscal agent (can apply for grants and other monies)

Initial Steps

- Identify LTRO or LTRC leadership to include a full time Coordinator or Director
- Assign a city/county/state government point person to stay current on relief/recovery efforts being conducted by government agencies
- Identify potential types of crisis
- Identify community partners/collaborators
- Define organizational roles – who does what, when and why
- Assess community needs – at risk areas and special populations

- Identify resources available to recovery including state and county organizations such as the Area Workforce Board, Department of Health, Department of Housing, community and faith based organizations, non-profit housing corporation, etc.
- Identify and direct the movement of resources from relief/emergency assistance to recovery efforts
- Ensure these efforts focus on “long-term” recovery needs of the community rather than short term assistance needs
- Evaluate results – outcomes planning and evaluation and periodically review plan
- Writing the Plan – anticipate and be thorough

References:

<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/ltrc/selfhelp.pdf> - a comprehensive step-by-step guide for implementing a LTRC planning program based on the experience obtained and the lessons learned by teams of planners, architects, and engineers.

www.online.unitedway.org - crisis response guide

<http://www.gema.state.ga.us/ohsgemaweb.nsf> - Georgia Emergency Operations Plan 2006

www.uwmich.org – United Way Business Continuity Plan

www.redcross.org – emergency information and assistance

www.secondharvest.org – emergency food

www.giftsinkind.org – in kind available products and services

FEMA Publications (www.fema.gov/library)

Disaster Assistance – A Guide to Federal Recovery Programs (FEMA Pub. 229)

Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction, Chapters 3, 4, and 5 -
http://www.fema.gov/rrr/ltrc/plan_resource.shtm

State and Local Mitigation Planning How-To Guides (www.fema.gov/fima/resources.shtm)

Getting Started (FEMA Pub. 386-1)

Developing the Mitigation Plan (FEMA Pub. 386-3)

Bringing the Plan to Life (FEMA Pub. 386-4)

Other Publications

Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction

Holistic Disaster Recovery: Ideas for Building Local Sustainability after a Natural Disaster –
 Natural Hazards Research and Application Information Denver, University of Colorado
 (http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/holistic_recovery)